

1921.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE
Rural Sanitary District
OF THE
ISLE OF WIGHT

BY
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CASTLE VIEW,

CARISBROOKE,

7th April, 1922.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1921.

In the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health for reports for 1921, the omission of details as to conditions which do not vary from year to year has been ordered, a full and more detailed report being asked for at intervals of not more than five years.

The report for 1921 is therefore an ordinary report, those for 1919 and 1920 being regarded as survey reports.

The work of the year has been very heavy, due largely to the need for constant visits being paid to houses which have in previous years been found to be in need of repair and no action has been taken by the landlords.

The Parish of South Arreton is still in need of a water supply.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. ALBERT GIBSON.

POPULATION.

The unrevised figures of the census of 1921 shows the population of the District to be 30,915, the population as ascertained in 1911 being 31,059, representing a decrease of 144.

Between the census of 1901, and 1911 an increase of 2500 was recorded.

Tables I and II show that the increase between 1901 and 1911, and the decrease between 1911 and 1921 do not apply to the District in so far as the Public Health Acts and Housing are concerned.

It will be seen from Table I that when the population of public institutions is deducted, the increase in the remaining population was 1,230 between the year 1901 and 1911, whereas in Table II it will be observed that when the population of institutions is deducted, there is an increase of the remaining population of 1,502.

The increase in the number of inhabitants in public institutions was 1,270 between the years 1901 and 1911, while the decrease was 1,716 between the years 1911 and 1921.

The Parish of Bembridge shows the greatest increase, namely 652.

In the Parishes of Carisbrooke, Northwood, Whippingham, and Yaverland, while the total figures show a decrease, it will be found that when the inhabitants of institutions are deducted, an actual increase has taken place.

The Parishes of Brading, Freshwater, Mottistone, Niton, and Yarmouth, which had shown a decrease of population between the years 1901 and 1911, have now increased since that census.

On the other hand, the Parishes of Newehureh, Shorwell, South Arreton, Thorley, and Whitwell, which increased between the years 1901 and 1911, now show a decrease between the years 1911 and 1921.

As regards the population of males and females, the latter exceed the former in number in an even greater proportion than the previous census showed.

In 1911, after deducting the population in institutions, the females exceeded the males by 1,250, whereas the preliminary figures of last year's census show that the females exceeded the males by 2,212.

The census of 1921 was, contrary to the usual custom, carried out in the month of June, with the consequence that movements from one place to another had already begun to take place, and this to a small extent affected this District.

To compensate for this, the Registrar-General has made an adjustment, by means of the best data available, which places the population for the middle of the year at 29,540, on which figure all statistics are estimated.

1. General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	86,925
Population (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	30,915
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	7,295
Number of families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	Information not received		
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£214,044
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£750

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Births—			Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	...	...	486	282	204
Illegitimate	...	...	35	19	16
Birth-rate	...	...	...	17.6	
Deaths—326.					
Death-rate	...	...	...	11.0	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth—					
(a) Sepsis	...	0	(b) Other causes	...	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births—					
Legitimate	47.2	Illegitimate	114.2	Total	51.8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0	
„ „ Whooping-cough (all ages)	...	...	...	4	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	6	

VITAL STATISTICS.

It will be observed that under “General Statistics” the population is given as 30,915, this being the figure given in answer to our request for statistics as regards the recent census.

The figure now given by the Registrar-General is 29,540, and on this latter figure the birth-rate and death-rate have to be calculated.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered during the year was 521, and of these 301 were males and 220 females. Of these 521 births, 35 were illegitimate.

Calculated on the above population figure, the birth-rate was 17.6.

The natural increases of births over deaths is shown below for the year under review, in comparison with the previous ten years :—

TABLE I. CENSUS, 1911.

PARISH.	TOTAL POPULATION.				INSTITUTIONS, &C.		POPULATION LESS INSTITUTIONS, &C.			
	1901.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.	1901.	1911.	1901.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ashey ...	1621	1471	—	150	—	1	1621	1470	—	151
Bembridge ...	1127	1428	301	—	14	109	1113	1319	206	—
Binstead ...	851	969	118	—	—	—	851	969	118	—
Bonchurch ...	539	530	—	9	—	—	539	530	—	9
Brading ...	1732	1563	—	169	10	4	1722	1559	—	163
Brighstone ...	493	469	—	24	—	—	493	469	—	24
Brooke ...	221	220	—	1	—	—	221	220	—	1
Calbourne ...	747	720	—	27	—	1	747	719	—	28
Carisbrooke ...	3993	5139	1146	—	2096	2573	1897	2566	669	—
Chale ...	543	565	22	—	—	2	543	563	20	—
Freshwater ...	3306	3192	—	114	373	315	2933	2877	—	56
Gatcombe ...	407	369	—	38	—	—	407	369	—	38
Godshill ...	906	964	58	—	—	2	906	962	56	—
Kingston ...	68	68	—	—	—	—	68	68	—	—
Mottistone ...	122	100	—	22	—	—	122	100	—	22
Newchurch ...	711	751	40	—	—	—	711	751	40	—
Niton ...	884	866	—	18	—	—	884	866	—	18
Northwood ...	2016	2385	369	—	—	133	2016	2252	236	—
St. Lawrence ...	361	366	5	—	202	220	159	146	—	13
Shalfleet ...	798	822	24	—	—	—	798	822	24	—
Shorwell ...	533	541	8	—	—	—	533	541	8	—
South Arreton ...	897	932	35	—	—	—	897	932	35	—
Thorley ...	129	152	23	—	—	—	129	152	23	—
Totland ...	1328	1441	113	—	55	40	1273	1401	128	—
Whippingham ...	1739	2545	806	—	—	674	1739	1871	132	—
Whitwell ...	633	681	48	—	27	—	606	681	75	—
Wroxall ...	775	828	53	—	—	1	775	827	52	—
Yarmouth...	948	847	—	101	43	20	905	827	—	78
Yaverland ...	131	135	4	—	67	62	64	73	9	—
Totals ...	28559	31059	2500	—	2887	4157	25672	26902	1230	—



Year.		Births.	Deaths.	Increase.
1911	...	536	343	193
1912	...	496	319	177
1913	...	490	307	183
1914	...	500	316	184
1915	...	420	394	26
1916	...	494	379	115
1917	...	395	308	87
1918	...	451	400	51
1919	...	415	332	83
1920	...	602	301	301
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Average	...	479	339	140
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1921	...	521	326	195
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DEATHS.

The total number of deaths which took place in the District, or outside it and belonging to the District, was 326, and, calculated on the figure of 29,540 given by the Registrar-General, this gives a death-rate of 11.0 per 1,000.

The causes of death were as follows :—

Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	5
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	2
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	15
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	37
Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...	2
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	17
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	64
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	7
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	22
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	17

Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	6
Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	3
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	3
Accidents or diseases of pregnancy or parturition				1
Congenital debility	...	...	...	10
Suicide	...	...	...	5
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	9
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	79
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	4
Total				326

It will be noticed that this list gives 2 deaths from encephalitis lethargica, whereas only 1 is mentioned in the list of notifiable diseases. This is due to the fact that 1 case was removed to the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, and was found there to be suffering from that disease, from which he died.

The death-rate for England and Wales generally was 12.1.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths which took place under one year of age was 27, and as the number of births was 521, this represents an infantile mortality rate of 51.8 per 1,000 registered births.

Of these 27 deaths, 4 were illegitimate.

The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 registered births was therefore :—

	1921.	Average : 1916-20.
Legitimate	47.2	49.4
Illegitimate	114.2	121.3
Total	51.8	54.7

It will be seen from this that the death-rates both of legitimate and illegitimate children was less during the year under review than the average of the previous five years.

The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales generally was 66.

3. Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	12	9	1
Scarlet Fever	40	35	—
Enteric Fever	3	3	1
Pneumonia	4	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1	1
Tuberculosis—			
Pulmonary Males ...	16	6	—
Females	14	2	—
Total ...	30	8	—
Non-pulmonary Males	3	3	—
Females	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—

	Cases Notified.	Treated in Hospital.	Vision Un- impaired.	Total Deaths.
Ophthalmia				
Neonatorum	1	1	1	0

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

			All Ages	Un- der 1	2-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Diphtheria	...	...	12	—	1	2	7	—	1	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	40	—	—	14	16	2	2	5	1	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Pneumonia	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Erysipelas	...	...	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica			2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—												
Pulmonary	Males		16	—	—	—	1	3	2	6	4	—
	Females		14	—	—	—	—	2	8	—	3	1
	Total...		30	—	—	—	1	5	10	6	7	1
Non-pulmonary	Males		3	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
	Females		0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total...		3	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—

NUMBER OF DEATHS AND AGE AT DEATH.

			All Ages	Un- der 1	2-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Diphtheria	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica			1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—												
Pulmonary	Males		4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
	Females		11	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	2	1
	Total...		15	—	—	—	—	2	5	4	3	1
Non-pulmonary	Males		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Females		1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	Total...		1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN PARISHES.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tuberculosis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Ashey ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Benbridge ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Binstead ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bonchurch ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Brading ...	1	3	—	—	3	—	6	—	1
Brightstone ...	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carisbrooke	1	5	—	3	1	—	4	—	—
Asylum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prison ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Freshwater	—	6	—	—	—	1	4	2	—
Gatcombe ...	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newchurch	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Niton ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Northwood	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
St. Lawrence	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shorwell ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Arreton	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totland ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Whippingham	1	6	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
Whitwell ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wroxall ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	12	40	3	4	4	2	30	3	1

DIPHTHERIA.

Twelve cases of this disease were notified during the year, and of these, 9 were removed to hospital. The three cases nursed at home were unable to gain admission to the Undercliff Hospital owing to all beds being occupied.

No case of diphtheria was notified in the District from the beginning of September, 1920, until February, 1921, 1 case being notified in that month in the Parish of Bonchurch, the patient having arrived in the Isle of Wight from Ireland two days before. He was at once removed to hospital. No further case occurred until May, when a school child was notified in the Parish of Whippingham.

The next notification came from the Parish of Carisbrooke in the month of June. The patient had a particularly virulent form of the disease, which proved fatal after four days in hospital.

In the month of August a case was notified in Brading, the patient being a visitor from London.

In October, 2 very mild cases occurred in Gurnard and were removed to hospital, from which they were discharged after one week, owing to successive throat swabs proving negative.

In November a school child was notified in the Village of Niton, and removed to the Undercliff Hospital. The case was followed by two more during the same month and attending the same school, and 3 more occurred during the month of December, the last 3 being unable, as already stated, to be admitted to hospital.

SCARLET FEVER.

Forty cases of this disease have occurred during the year, 25 of these being notified during the last three months of the year.

No special prevalence occurred in any one parish, there being 6 in Freshwater and 6 in Whippingham, 5 in Brighthelmston and 5 in Carisbrooke, 3 in Brading, 3 in Gatcombe, 3 in Northwood, and 3 in Shorwell, with 1 in each of the following parishes, namely, Ashey, Bembridge, Binstead, South Arreton, Whitwell, and Wroxall.

Of these 40 cases, 1 occurred in a large isolated house, and removal to hospital was not necessary. 35 were

removed to hospital. The remaining 4 cases were nursed at home owing to the Isolation Hospital at Fairlee being unable to accommodate them.

Some difficulty was experienced in diagnosis owing to the fact that German measles occurred in some areas about the same time as cases of scarlet fever.

Two of the cases which occurred in Carisbrooke in August derived infection from a child who had come to stay with them three days before and had been discharged from a fever hospital on the mainland a week before—a typical illustration of what is known as a "return case."

These return cases are of frequent occurrence in most districts, and are caused by some discharge from the nose or ear of a patient who has been discharged from hospital free from such discharge, but develops some inflammatory condition which leads to a nasal discharge, such discharge infecting others who come in close contact.

It is usual in fever hospitals to warn all parents that a patient who has suffered from scarlet fever and has been discharged free from infection may, after returning home, develop some condition which will convey infection.

ENTERIC (TYPHOID) FEVER.

Three cases of this disease were notified during the year.

The first case occurred in August in the Parish of Gatcombe, and proved fatal.

The man worked at the sewage beds in connection with the farm at the County Mental Hospital. An insanitary privy-pit was the only convenience in connection with the cottage.

The second case occurred in September in a nurse of the Royal National Consumption Hospital, and the third occurred in a warder of H.M. Prison at Parkhurst.

PNEUMONIA.

Four cases of this disease were notified. Two of these, occurring in April and October respectively, were in connection with the staff of H.M. Prison at Parkhurst.

The remaining 2 occurred in the same house at Wootton in the month of November, 1 of these proving fatal.

ERYSIPELAS.

Four cases of this disease were notified, the first one being in Carisbrooke in the month of April in a child under one year of age, the remaining 3 being in Brading in July, August, and November respectively.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

Two cases of this disease were notified during the year. The first occurred in Gurnard in the Parish of Northwood towards the end of February, and as the case was not a very severe one, was nursed at home and made a fair recovery. The second case was the wife of an ex-service man who had lost his arm and had been out of work. The case was a very severe one, and was removed to the Isolation Hospital where she died after four days.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-three notifications of this disease were received during the year, 30 of these being cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

As regards the remaining 3, 1 was stated to be tuberculosis of the spine, 1 had tuberculosis of the glands of the groin, and 1 tuberculosis of the larynx. In the last mentioned the lungs were also found to be involved when the patient was admitted to a sanatorium.

At the commencement of the year the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register was 81, 69 of these being cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 12 cases of other forms. The number of notified cases known to exist in the District

during the year was therefore 114, to which has to be added four deaths of patients who had not been notified, and 3 patients who had left the District and returned during the year. Of the total of 121, 16 died and 17 left the District, leaving 88 on the register at the close of the year. In addition to those 4 deaths of patients who had not been notified, 1 case came to the notice of the department through the British Red Cross Society, who had received an application for relief owing to tuberculosis. There were therefore 5 cases known to exist during the year which had not been notified.

4. Causes of Sickness.

Influenza was prevalent in Yarmouth in the month of March, and German measles was prevalent during the last four months of the year, and caused considerable difficulty in the diagnosis of scarlet fever, several cases having been sent to the Isolation Hospital as cases of the latter disease, and proved to be cases of German measles.

5. Summary (for Reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) *General.* Trained nurses can be obtained from institutions in Ryde, and failing them, from Portsmouth.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases, Measles, &c.* The same institutions can also provide trained nurses for people who are nursed in their own homes.

District nurses are also provided in the following districts :
Ashey & Binstead are provided for by the Ryde & District Nursing Association, who have several nurses available.
Brighstone, Brooke, & Mottistone form a district which provides a nurse.

Carisbrooke has a district nurse who attends the whole of the parish, including the married quarters at Albany Barracks.

Chale, Kingston, & Shorwell form a district providing a nurse.

Freshwater & Totland have a joint nursing association which has recently opened a War Memorial Nursing Home with three beds.

Gatcombe has a nurse, who also attends in part of South Arreton and Godshill.

Niton, Whitwell, & St. Lawrence have a joint nursing association.

Wootton Bridge has a nursing association whose nurse attends a large part of Whippingham.

Yarmouth has a nursing association whose nurse also attends in the Parish of Thorley and the Wellow and Ningwood Districts of Shalfleet.

The part of Whippingham not supplied by the Wootton nurse receives the services of the nurse from East Cowes.

All those associations are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

Bembridge has a nursing association not affiliated to the County Association.

Northwood is provided for by Cowes.

Bonchurch is provided for by the Ventnor Nursing Association.

Grants are given by the County Council for health visiting to the following, namely :—

Ryde Nursing Association (Ashey and Binstead).

Carisbrooke Nursing Association.

Chale, Kingston, and Shorwell.

Freshwater and Totland.

Gatcombe, Rookley, and Godshill.

Wootton Bridge.

Yarmouth, Thorley, Wellow, and Ningwood.

Ventnor Nursing Association (Bonchurch).

Grants are given by the County Council for School Nursing to the following :

Ryde Nursing Association (Ashley and Binstead).
 Brighstone, Brooke, and Mottistone.
 Chale, Shorwell, and Kingston.
 Gatecombe, Rookley, and Godshill.
 Wootton Bridge.
 Yarmouth, Thorley, Wellow, and Ningwood.

Grants are given by the Board of Guardians to the following, namely :—

Ryde Nursing Association.
 Carisbrooke.
 Chale, Kingston, and Shorwell.
 Freshwater and Totland.
 Gatecombe, Rookley, and Godshill.
 Wootton Bridge.
 Yarmouth, Thorley, Wellow, and Ningwood.
 Ventnor Nursing Association (Bonchurch).

The Bembridge Nursing Association received a grant of £21 os. 6d. from the Ministry of Health and £11 5s. from the County Council.

MIDWIVES.

The total number of midwives who practised in the District amounted to 24. Of these, 15 were resident in the District and 9 in adjacent urban districts.

Those living within the District were situated in the following parishes, namely :—

Bembridge	...	...	...	...	1
Brading ...	...	...	...	...	1
Brighstone	...	...	...	...	1
Calbourne	...	...	...	...	1
Carisbrooke	...	...	...	...	2
Chale ...	...	...	...	...	1
Freshwater	...	...	...	...	1
Gatecombe	...	...	...	...	1
Niton ...	...	...	...	...	1

Northwood	...	...	...	...	1
Totland	...	...	...	...	1
Whippingham	...	...	...	...	2
Yarmouth	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
					15
					<hr/>

Those living outside the District were in the following urban districts, namely :—

Cowes	...	...	...	...	1
East Cowes	...	...	...	...	1
Ryde	...	...	...	...	3
St. Helens	...	...	...	...	1
Sandown	...	...	...	...	3

The public health authority do not employ or subsidise these midwives, who are either district nurses under the control of a district association, or private practitioners.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD-WELFARE CENTRES.

Name.	Situation.	Parishes.	By whom provided
Ryde	... Trinity Hall	... Asheys & Binstead	... Ryde N.A.
Bembridge	... Parish Room	... Bembridge	... Bembridge N.A.
Sandown	... Rechabites' Hall	Newchurch, &c.	... I.W.C.C.
Brading	... Parish Room	... Brading	... Brading N.A.
Yarmouth	... Miss Princep's	... Yarmouth, &c.	... Yarmouth N.A.
Freshwater & Totland	Parish Room	Freshwater & Totland	Freshwater & Totland N.A.
Cowes	... St. Mary's Mission	Northwood (Gurnard)	I.W.C.C.
East Cowes	... Parish Room	... Whippingham	... I.W.C.C.
Carisbrooke	Sunday School	... Carisbrooke	... Carisbrooke N.A.
Barracks	... Barracks	... Barracks	... Carisbrooke N.A.

There are no day nurseries in the district so far as is known. As regards school clinics, children from Asheys (Haylands) and Binstead can attend the Ryde school clinics, and children from Northwood (including Gurnard) can attend at the Cowes school clinic.

As regards tuberculosis, Hawthorndene, at Bonchurch, has accommodation for 20 females, and 'The Hermitage, Whitwell, for about 50 males, each of these being privately-owned sanatoria.

Longford House, at Havenstreet, will shortly be opened by the Isle of Wight County Council for 23 females.

The Royal National Hospital for Consumption, which is managed by a Committee in London, is situated at St. Lawrence within the District, and has accommodation for about 168 patients, who come from other parts of the country.

As regards venereal diseases, the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital has 2 beds and an out-patient clinic for cases in this District.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

1. Tuberculosis. The County Council have now acquired Longford House, Havenstreet, in the Parish of Asheys, which will be opened shortly for 23 female patients.
2. Maternity. No hospital is provided or subsidised.
3. Children. No hospital is provided or subsidised.

FEVER HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Of the 29 parishes in the District, 24 are provided for by the Isle of Wight Joint Hospital Board with accommodation at their Isolation Hospital at Fairlee, near Newport, which has 31 beds made up as follows: Four wards of 6 beds each and 7 single rooms. This accommodation is made up by one block of three cubicles, and two blocks each consisting of two wards of six beds, and 2 single rooms.

These provide for a population of about 50,000, consisting of the Borough of Newport, the Urban District of St. Helens, the Urban District of East Cowes, and the Isle of Wight Rural District. All empty beds are at all times available for cases from any of these districts.

The Undercliff Joint Hospital Board provides for the Urban District of Ventnor, and the Parishes of Bonchurch, Niton, St. Lawrence, Whitwell, and Wroxall.

During the year under review 55 cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and enteric fever occurred, and of these, 48 (or over 87 per cent.) were removed to hospital.

In the Fairlee area 45 cases occurred, and 42 (or over 93 per cent.) were removed.

In the Undercliff area 10 cases occurred and 6 (or 60 per cent.) were removed.

It is unfortunate that patients from all over the district are not removed to the same isolation hospital.

This is due to the fact that some years prior to the formation of the Isle of Wight Joint Isolation Hospital Board, a hospital district was formed under the Isolation Hospitals Act which included the Urban District of Ventnor and the Parishes of Bonchurch, Niton, St. Lawrence, Whitwell, and Wroxall.

In the month of September a patient living at Apse Reach, near Shanklin, was notified as suffering from scarlet fever by a medical practitioner in Shanklin.

His removal to hospital was urgent, and it was impossible at the time to decide whether the house was in the Parish of Brading or in Wroxall.

If in Brading, the patient would be removed to Fairlee, where medical attendance is provided, but if in Wroxall, the patient would be removed to Ventnor, where patients are attended by their own medical practitioners.

Your Medical Officer of Health visited the house of the Shanklin practitioner, but was unable to find him, and, owing to the urgency of the matter, communicated by

telephone from there with the Fairlee Hospital and arranged for his immediate removal to that Hospital.

On reference to a map of the district, it was found that the patients' residence was in Wroxall, but, after communicating with the practitioner in Shanklin, it was found that he was unable to visit the patient if removed from Fairlee to Ventnor, and arrangements were therefore made with the authorities at Ventnor that the patient should be treated at Fairlee.

As it would undoubtedly be to the advantage of the district generally if all patients were removed to the same hospital, I beg to recommend that steps be taken to endeavour to place the five parishes mentioned in the area of the Fairlee Hospital, and thus relieve the Urban District of Ventnor.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

The County Council have provided a disused school at Ashej for the accommodation of cases of small-pox from all districts of the Isle of Wight. The building accommodates four beds, besides room for nurses and servants, etc. Extra accommodation can be provided by the use of marquees in the garden.

Taking into consideration the infrequency of cases of small-pox, this appears to be sufficient provision, as the management is provided by the Isle of Wight Joint Hospital Board, who can arrange at very short notice for equipment, nursing, etc.

No institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children is provided in this District.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious cases.—These can be provided for throughout the District by the ambulances at Fairlee and Ventnor. The Fairlee Hospital provides a motor ambulance which is always available for the transport of cases to the Hospital, and can be hired at a cost of 1s. per mile for other emergencies involving infectious cases.

(b) Non-infections cases and accident cases.—The Isle of Wight Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem provide a motor ambulance at a cost of 1s. per mile, which can be remitted if justified, on application being made. This ambulance is available at all times, being situated at Messrs. Bird Cheverton's Garage, Lugley Street, Newport, where a telephone is installed. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade can be obtained to accompany the ambulance if necessary.

6. Laboratory Work.

The analysis of water is carried out by Messrs. Angell & Angell, of Southampton, and the bacteriological examination of diphtheria swabs, typhoid excreta, or tubercular sputum by the Clinical Research Association, of London.

During the year under review 11 samples of water were taken for analysis.

Fifty-five swabs were taken from suspected throats for the detection of diphtheria, and of these, 6 were found positive and 49 negative. In 9 instances sputa were forwarded for the detection of tubercle bacilli—2 were found positive and 7 negative.

Antitoxin can be provided by the Council on the application of a medical practitioner by telephone to a Newport chemist, the account being forwarded to your Medical Officer of Health for verification.

LOCAL OR ADOPTIVE ACTS.

There are no local acts, but the following have been adopted :—

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, Part III.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Sections 34 to 38, 43 to 46, and 48 to 50 of Part III, and Sections 52 to 66 and 68 of Part IV, throughout the District ; Sections 39 to 42 of Part III are also in force in Freshwater and Yarmouth only.

7. Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department during the year.

HOUSES INSPECTED				Eastern District.	Central District.	Western District.
(a)	As result of complaint...	...	...	338	308	137
(b)	Re-inspections as result of complaint	...	...	101	119	123
NOTICES SERVED—						
	Preliminary notices...	...	...	224	281	176
	Final notices	...	...	—	2	4
	Legal proceedings taken	...	...	—	—	—
	No. of convictions	...	...	—	—	—
NUISANCES REPORTED—						
	Cases of overcrowding	...	...	2	4	3
	Defective pail closets	...	...	36	24	3
	Defective water closets	...	...	58	76	6
	Defective drains	...	...	66	97	88
	Overflowing cesspits	...	...	48	37	17
	Accumulations of refuse	...	...	72	53	32
	Cases of uncleanness	...	...	2	20	3
	Other nuisances	...	...	164	131	62
	Total No. of nuisances reported	...	...	448	442	214
NUISANCES ABATED, &c.						
	Cases of overcrowding	...	...	6	—	2
	Defective pail closets	...	...	29	20	3
	Defective water closets	...	...	40	50	10
	Defective drains	...	...	40	77	84
	Overflowing cesspits	...	...	39	25	17
	Accumulations of refuse	...	...	55	32	32
	Cases of uncleanness	...	...	1	12	3
	Other nuisances	...	...	76	106	62
	Total No. of nuisances abated	...	...	286	322	213
	Privy pits converted to pail closets	...	...	2	1	—
	Privy pits converted to water closets	...	...	—	2	—
	Pail closets converted to water closets	...	...	—	14	6
	New water closets provided (not included in above)	...	...	2	43	7

	Eastern District.	Central District.	Western District.
Houses drained & connected to sewer	23	25	4
Houses drained into cesspools ...	11	28	5
Water samples taken for analysis...	7	3	1
Houses connected to water mains...	35	63	11
Wells closed	2	7	—
Visits to Sewage Works	115	114	310
Visits to Waterworks	142	271	54
Visits <i>re</i> scavenging	144	257	158
No. of meetings attended	47	77	53

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

No. of notified cases inquired into...	26	47	18
No. of houses disinfected	14	37	14
No. of visits	23	72	55
No. of articles of bedding destroyed	—	49	—

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS—

No. of milk-sellers registered during the year	5	18	4
No. of visits of inspection	64	350	129
No. of cleansing notices sent out ...	148	492	80
No. of cleansing notices complied with	9	160	65
No. of contraventions found	—	66	2
No. of contraventions remedied ...	—	30	—

BAKEHOUSES—

No. of visits of inspection	17	56	38
No. of cleansing notices sent out ...	12	41	16
No. of cleansing notices complied with	13	19	16
No. of contraventions found	—	11	—
No. of contraventions remedied ...	—	3	—

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, &c.—

No. of visits of inspection	13	} See Meat Report	19
No. of cleansing notices sent out ...	6		—
No. of cleansing notices complied with	6		—
No. of contraventions found	—		—
No. of contraventions remedied ...	—		—
No. of visits to meat depots other than slaughter-houses... ..	—		—

OFFENSIVE TRADES—	Eastern District.	Central District.	Western District.
Knacker's yard inspections ...	—	18	—
Knacker's yard contraventions found	—	6	—
Knacker's yard contraventions remedied	—	4	—
Bone-mill inspections ...	—	11	—
Bone-mill contraventions found ...	—	3	—
Bone-mill contraventions remedied	—	2	—

CARBIDE AND PETROL STORES—

No. of inspections ...	13	43	18
No. of contraventions found ...	1	4	3
No. of contraventions remedied ...	—	2	3

WORKSHOPS, EXCLUDING BAKE-HOUSES—

No. of inspections ...	44	70	79
No. of cleansing notices sent out ...	11	30	—
No. of cleansing notices complied with	11	9	—
No. of contraventions found ...	—	6	—
No. of contraventions remedied ...	—	5	—

NEW BUILDINGS—

Plans of new dwelling-houses approved	21	14	15
Plans of new public buildings approved	1	6	—
No. of alterations & additions approved	7	7	6
New dwelling-houses completed and certificates granted ...	16	20	12
New public buildings completed ...	2	2	2
Alterations and additions completed	5	3	2
No. of contraventions of bye-laws found	6	68	2
No. of contraventions of bye-laws remedied	7	49	2
No. of visits to new buildings ...	57	332	97

Disinfection of rooms is carried out after cases of infectious disease by the Sanitary Inspector.

The vapour of formalin is employed, the room being sealed up for some time after.

Mattresses, etc., are removed to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection by steam.

When infectious disease has occurred in a school, the method of disinfection adopted is to either destroy or treat with carbolic solution such articles as pencils, pens,

and modelling clay, and to give instructions for desks, etc., to be washed down with carbolic.

Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops have, as usual, received special attention, and an endeavour made to educate milkers to take an interest in cleanliness, which has improved very markedly in the last ten years.

Closets on the conservancy system only exist in rural areas, and the number of privy pits is steadily decreasing. Five of these have been abolished during the year, making a total of 674 since I became your Medical Officer of Health 15 years ago.

The Inspector of Meat and Foods reports that there are 19 slaughter-houses in use in the District, to which 115 visits have been made, an endeavour being made, if possible, to visit at the time of slaughter.

Sixty-four visits have been made to meat shops and depots, and 77 to other food shops. 829 carcasses have been examined, and 941 other articles of food.

Four carcasses were found to be wholly affected with tuberculosis and 12 were partly affected.

Other diseases were found in the organs of different animals. In all cases where meat or unsound food was discovered it was voluntarily surrendered by the owner and destroyed, the total amount destroyed being :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	1837 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	572 „
Pork	...	...	...	...	356 „
Bacon	...	...	...	...	196 „
Organs	...	...	...	...	927 „
Tinned and other foods	...	...	...	...	365 „
Total					4253 „

It is to be hoped that in the near future legislation will be introduced to deal with the question of the handling and storage of foods, as at present no means are available to check the insanitary and unsatisfactory methods so frequently employed.

The following is the list of workshops in the District at the close of the year. The inspections made to these workshops will be found under the tabular summary of the work of the sanitary department.

Name of Parish.		Bakehouses.	Blacksmiths.	Boat Builders.	Bone Mills.	Bootmakers.	Brewers.	Brickmakers.	Brushmakers.	Builders.	Cabinet Makers.	Carpenters.	Cement Mills.	Cycle Repairers.	Dressmakers.	Laundries.	Millers.	Monumental Masons.	Motor Engineers.	Painters.	Plumbers.	Printers.	Saddlers.	Saw Mills.	Tailors.	Watch-makers.	Wheel-wrights.
Ashey ...	12	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bembridge ...	20	3	2	2	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
Binstead ...	11	2	2	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonchurch ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brading ...	19	3	2	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brighstone ...	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brooke ...	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calbourne ...	11	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Carisbrooke ...	22	4	2	1	1	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	-	1
Chale ...	8	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Freshwater ...	34	3	4	-	-	4	-	1	-	4	2	2	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	3	1	2
Gatcombe ...	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Godshill ...	10	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kingston ...	—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mottistone ...	—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newchurch ...	8	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niton ...	16	2	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northwood ...	12	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
St. Lawrence	—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shalfleet ...	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Shorwell ...	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Arretton	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Thorley ...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totland ...	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
Whippingham	11	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitwell ...	8	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Wroxall ...	9	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yarmouth ...	12	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Yaverland ...	—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	266	38	38	4	1	20	3	13	1	36	3	22	2	6	9	3	11	1	7	11	6	2	2	3	10	3	11

8. Public Health Staff.

The staff has, as in previous years, consisted of a part-time medical officer of health and three sanitary inspectors, who are whole-time officers, their time being fully occupied with the duties of sanitary surveyor, housing inspector, petroleum inspector, etc.

The districts are divided as follows as regards area and population :—

District.	Area in Acres.	Population.	Institutions.	Population less Institutions.	Houses.
Eastern	29,359	9,799	117	9,682	2,469
Central	43,660	13,903	2,190	11,613	3,026
Western	13,906	7,323	134	7,189	1,800
Total	86,925	30,925	2,441	28,484	7,295

The inspector for the Central District is provided with a motor-bicycle, and also acts as meat and food inspector for the whole District, and holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in that subject.

These three sanitary inspectors all hold the qualification issued by the Royal Sanitary Institute, and one-half the salary paid as sanitary inspector is refunded by the County Council by the Exchequer grant.

One-half of the salary of the Medical Officer of Health is also refunded.

9. Housing.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...						—

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	783
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	218
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	18
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	121

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	12
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	...	159
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :		
(a) By owners	...	229
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	—
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close		5

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909—

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	16
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

In the Annual Report for 1920 it was stated that at the close of the year 244 houses on the owners of which notices had been served were still unremedied. 159 notices were served during 1921, making a total of 403. 229 have now been repaired, leaving 174 in which the repairs are not completed, although a large number are in hand.

The number of notices served during 1921 was considerably greater than the number of houses which during that year were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation owing to the fact that the owners of a number of houses which were inspected in 1920 were not served with notices until 1921.

The total number of houses inspected under Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909 now amounts

to 2,377, so that most of the old-fashioned and unsuitable houses have now been inspected.

Several of these houses in the Western District have been inspected on more than one occasion—that is, inspection made in 1912 and again in 1920 or 1921.

The number of houses inspected would have been greater but for the fact that great delay has been caused by certain owners not complying with notices served, and consequently a large number of re-inspections made in order to ascertain from time to time whether the work of repair had been carried out.

The number of houses built during the year by private enterprise, namely 49, is very satisfactory, and compares favourably with the average for the five years previous to the great war, namely (1910–1914) 48, so that it seems reasonable to expect a marked increase in that number during the year 1922.

These new houses were situated as follows :—

Ashey	...	4	Northwood	...	8
Bembridge	...	8	Shalfleet	...	8
Brading	...	1	S. Arreton	...	1
Chale	...	5	Totland	...	1
Freshwater	...	4	Whippingham		1
Godshill	...	4	Whitwell	...	1
Newchurch	...	1	Wroxall	...	2

A number of these are built under the provisions of Section 25 of the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919, which permits you to approve plans which do not comply with your bye-laws for a period of three years from the date of that Act.

After July 31st, 1922, it will therefore be necessary for all plans to comply with the bye-laws of the Council as at present framed. I again beg to recommend you to reconsider your bye-laws with a view to relaxing some of the more stringent requirements, and at the same time to ensure healthy houses.

GENERAL.

The most marked feature of the year was the very small rainfall, which caused some anxiety as regards the various water supplies, but, by means of warning notices issued to consumers, no trouble was caused.

We are again indebted to Mr. John Dover and Major Brodie for kindly supplying meteorological tables, which are appended and which are of great interest.

The Parish of South Arreton is still in need of a water supply, only a very small part of this Parish being supplied by the mains of the Shanklin Urban District Council on their way from Gatcombe to Shanklin.

The Villages of Arreton and Merston still obtain their water from surface wells liable to pollution.

You have a scheme before you which provides for obtaining water from the Shanklin supply at Bohemia Corner, from which point it could be carried through Merston and the Village of Arreton to Herringford Station.

Another branch could be taken from the Shanklin main at the corner of Highwood Lane and carried over the hill, down Blackwater Shute, and along Blackwater Road to join the Newport mains, in this way linking up the Island supplies. You have again referred this scheme to the Parochial Committee, who have again advised you not to carry it out.

You have now a scheme before you for an extension of mains in the Parish of Carisbrooke whereby several farms which have been much in need of water will be supplied.

TOTLAND BAY METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1921.

Month.	Maximum for month.	Minimum for month.	Mean daily Maximum.	Mean daily Minimum.	Mean Tem- perature.	Rainfall Inches.	Wet Days.	Greatest fall in one day.	Hours of bright sunshine.	Sunless Days.
January	53.0	32.0	50.0	43.8	46.9	4.50	18	0.72	38.0	12
February	54.0	29.9	46.7	37.7	42.2	0.19	4	0.08	89.6	5
Monday...	58.9	33.0	50.7	42.0	46.3	1.06	16	0.22	140.9	3
April ...	70.3	32.1	57.1	41.1	49.1	0.83	8	0.30	252.7	0
May ...	73.8	36.0	60.8	47.1	54.0	1.14	11	0.40	249.4	2
June ...	76.9	42.0	68.5	51.9	60.2	0.16	3	0.13	274.3	0
July ...	84.5	48.3	72.6	57.5	65.1	0.47	6	0.17	279.2	1
August ...	78.3	47.2	67.6	55.9	61.7	2.06	11	0.56	185.6	0
September	74.5	42.4	67.1	53.2	60.1	0.71	5	0.53	181.7	1
October...	75.8	35.0	64.2	51.2	57.7	1.11	7	0.33	172.6	1
November	61.0	26.9	49.8	41.0	45.4	1.97	11	0.48	78.5	11
December	55.0	32.7	50.0	41.3	45.7	1.69	19	0.38	44.5	8
Year	84.5	26.9	58.8	47.0	52.9	15.89	119	0.72	1987.0	43

WOOTTON METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, 1921.

	Maximum for month.	Minimum for month.	Mean Maximum.	Mean Minimum.	Mean Temp. for month.	Rainfall.	No. of days not fell.	No. of days not fell.	Wind.
January	55	28	50.5	40.7	45.6	3.92	19	15	S.W.
February	58	27	49.2	35.1	42.2	.48	4	3	E. & N.
March	61	28	54	34.2	44.1	1.17	11	8	S.W.
April ...	70	28	58.4	38.6	48.5	.92	6	4	N.E.
May ...	76	34	63.2	44.3	53.7	1.74	10	8	N.E.
June ...	79	42	70.4	50.1	60.2	.04	3	0	N.E.
July ...	91	44	76.4	55.3	65.8	.29	6	2	S.E.
August	79	43	69.5	52.6	61	2.07	11	7	N. & W.
September	81	40	68.7	49.9	59.3	.56	5	2	E.
October	78	33	67	47.6	57.3	1.14	7	7	E.
November	61	24	51	38.1	44.5	2.28	11	10	E. & N.
December	56	27	52.8	38	45.5	1.85	17	11	W.
Year	70.4	34.7	60.9	43.7	52.4	16.36	110	77	

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ISLE OF WIGHT
JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.



Annual Report

OF THE HOSPITAL

BY

J. ALBERT GIBSON,

M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Superintendent,

For the Year ending 31st March, 1922.



ISLE OF WIGHT :
W. BLAKE AND SON, PRINTERS, TOWN LANE, NEWPORT.

CASTLE VIEW,

CARISBROOKE,

April, 1922.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Joint Hospital Board.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eleventh annual report on the work of the Isolation Hospital during the year ending 31st March, 1922.

The total number of patients admitted during the year was 161, the average for the previous 10 years being 144.

The number of cases treated to a conclusion was 143, and of these 137 have been discharged cured and 6 have died, which represents a mortality of 4.1 per cent.

As regards these 6 deaths, 2 were caused by scarlet fever, 2 by diphtheria, 1 by enteric (typhoid) fever, and 1 by encephalitis lethargica.

One came from Newport, 3 from the Rural District, and 2 from East Cowes.

SCARLET FEVER.

121 cases of this disease were admitted during the year, 110 of these being from the constituent authorities, 1 being a probationer nurse of the Hospital, while the remaining 10 came from outside districts, being 6 from Cowes, 1 from Ryde, 1 from the Undercliff Hospital area, 1 from the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, and 1 being a private patient.

As no cases of this disease were in the Hospital at the commencement of the year, these 121 cases were the total treated to a conclusion, and of these 2 died, being 1 from Newport and 1 from Carisbrooke, those 2 patients being in a debilitated state of health on admission.

RETURN CASES.

During the year under review several cases of this kind have to be recorded. On July 1st two patients were admitted from a house in Carisbrooke, having been first ill on 30th July. A cousin of these children had arrived at their house on 28th July, having been discharged from an isolation hospital at Merthyr Tydvil on July 23rd after suffering from scarlet fever.

On examination this child was found to be suffering from an inflamed nostril, which was capable of conveying the infection.

On February 22nd a child was discharged from this Hospital to her home in Binstead, having been in the Hospital for over six weeks. On March 1st, that is, ten days later, two other children from the same house were admitted with scarlet fever, and on examination of the patient who had been discharged, it was found that she had, since leaving the Hospital, contracted a cold which produced an inflammatory condition of one nostril, which was capable of infecting others.

On March 10th a child was discharged to his home in Totland after six weeks in this Hospital, and on March 14th another child from the same house was admitted with scarlet fever, and on examination of the child who had been sent home the same condition as in the previous case was discovered. A third child was admitted on 31st March.

These return cases of scarlet fever constitute one of the most difficult problems of isolation hospitals, and occur constantly in all hospitals.

The absence of them in this Hospital must be attributed more to accident than to design, as it is impossible to prevent their occurrence, and we can claim no credit for the small number of cases which have occurred.

Owing to the known risk of this tendency for a returned case to convey the disease to others, it has always been customary in this Hospital to send a printed notice to the

parent or guardian of the child warning them that the child should not sleep with others or be in close contact with others for at least a fortnight after returning home.

While patients are in hospital, every possible care is taken of them as regards warm clothing, protection from damp, and early bed-time, but these conditions are seldom fulfilled on return to the home, with the result that inflammatory conditions supervene which produce a discharge from the nostrils which conveys the infection to others.

The theory that the infection in scarlet fever was conveyed by the desquamation, which prevailed for many years, is now recognized to be fallacious, and it is generally admitted by all authorities on the matter that infection is conveyed to others by discharges from the body of the patient. The recognition of this fact has led to the abandonment in many hospitals of the custom of retaining patients in hospital until all desquamation had ceased, which does not happen until at least six weeks have elapsed, owing to the slow nature of the desquamation of the feet. This curtailment of the time of residence has considerably reduced the expenditure.

Owing to the popular belief in the infective nature of the desquamation, it has been customary in this Hospital to retain all patients until desquamation had entirely ceased, notwithstanding the fact that all discharges from nose, throat, ears, etc., had ceased; but, in view of the additional cost and the impossibility of preventing return cases by this method, I beg to recommend that in future sanction be given to discharge patients when all nasal or other discharges have ceased, notwithstanding the fact that desquamation of the feet still continues.

The ignorance and prejudices of years cannot be swept away by any resolution of a hospital board, but these ignorant views should not be allowed to burden the already hard-pressed ratepayer.

The following is a copy of the notice sent to all parents or guardians on the discharge of a patient :—

“Sir or Madam,

I beg to inform you that
will be discharged at o'clock

Will you kindly call for h at that time and bring
with you

NOTICE.

The patient has been suffering from an exhausting disease, and has been in an Infectious Atmosphere, therefore it is very desirable that attention should be paid to the following rules :—

- (1) No discharged patient should sleep with another person for the first fortnight, and should not come into unnecessarily close contact with others.
- (2) All recently-discharged patients should be warmly clad.
- (3) If possible, the patient should have a holiday in the country or at the seaside after discharge, and be in the open air as much as possible.

Every care is taken to disinfect the patient before leaving, so that the Board cannot accept responsibility or liability for any accident of infection subsequent to discharge of patients from the Hospital.

.....

Matron.”

DIPHTHERIA.

27 cases of this disease have been admitted during the year under review, 2 of these being from Newport, 5 from the Rural District, and 5 from East Cowes, making a total of 12 from the Constituent Authorities. The remaining

15 were made up as follows, namely : Cowes 9, Sandown 4, and Shanklin 2. As three cases of diphtheria were in the Hospital at the beginning of the year, and there were no cases of this disease at the close of the year, the total number of cases treated to a conclusion was 30, and of these 2 died, namely 1 from the Rural District and 1 from East Cowes.

It has been customary since the establishment of this Hospital to insist upon three successive negative swabs before the discharge of a patient, but it is questionable if in every case there is the justification for this expense, and I beg to recommend that sanction be given to the Medical Superintendent to relax this rule when in his opinion it can be done with safety.

ENTERIC (TYPHOID) FEVER.

Three cases of this disease were admitted during the year, 1 being from East Cowes and two from the Rural District.

The patient admitted from East Cowes showed symptoms of such a mild character that it was impossible to verify the disease definitely as those of typhoid fever.

The second case admitted was that of an employee at the sewage works of the County Mental Hospital, who suffered from a very serious form of the disease and died within eight days of admission.

The third case was that of a prison warder, who suffered from an ordinary typical attack, and was discharged cured in six weeks.

OTHER DISEASES.

One case of encephalitis lethargica was admitted from East Cowes, the patient being in service there, her home being in Cowes. The disease proved fatal in one week.

Nine cases of other diseases were admitted, being sent in as suffering from the following diseases, or for observation as suspicious from the following districts :—

Newport	...	1	suspicious of scarlet fever.
Rural District	...	3	" " " "
"	"	3	" " diphtheria.
County Hospital		1	" " scarlet fever.

These cases were isolated in separate rooms until a definite diagnosis could be made, in addition to others who, after observation from periods varying from one to four weeks, were proved to have the disease and were then admitted to the general ward for that particular disease.

These doubtful cases emphasise the need for cubicles or separate rooms, of which you now have seven.

PERCENTAGE OF ADMISSIONS.

The following table shows the percentage of admissions to cases of the three principal diseases :—

District	Notifications.	Admissions.	Percentage.
Newport ...	38	37	97.3
St. Helens ...	19	10	52.6
Rural District	70	64	91.4
East Cowes ...	14	13	92.8
Total ...	141	124	87.9

THE BUILDINGS.

During the year you considered the advisability of enlarging the Hospital by the addition of one more block, and agreed to do so in the event of your obtaining the grant from the Unemployment Committee of the Ministry of Health, but you were unable to obtain this, and you have postponed the erection of a block.

This is regrettable, as it was necessary to refuse patients from the constituent authorities owing to the wards being full, and a large number of applications from outside authorities had to be refused for the same reason.

The incidence of infectious disease varies very much at different seasons of the year: during the year under review the average number of occupied beds was 14, the maximum 40, and the minimum 1.

It is therefore necessary to provide accommodation for the maximum number: during the present year scarlet fever was prevalent while diphtheria cases were few in number, with the result that the scarlet fever block was greatly overcrowded, while the diphtheria block had only 1 patient.

By the addition of one more block of 12 or 14 beds, you would then be in a position to use two blocks for whichever disease was prevalent.

CENTRALIZATION.

You asked the authorities of the hospitals for Ryde, Sandown & Shanklin Joint, and the Undercliff Hospital, as well as the Cowes Council, to meet you at a conference to consider the advisability of concentrating all infectious disease at the one centre at Fairlee.

The Cowes Council, who have no provision whatever for infectious disease, declined to meet you.

The Undercliff Board wrote to say that they had ample provision for their patients.

Representatives from the Sandown & Shanklin Joint Hospital and from the Ryde Town Council met you in friendly conference, and it was shown that while the Ryde Council had an expenditure greater than the Fairlee Hospital, the Sandown & Shanklin Hospital were able to carry out the work of their Hospital at an expenditure less than at Fairlee.

From the County Reports the following figures may be of interest :—

Cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever, and cerebro-spinal fever notified and removed to hospital during the four years 1912-1915—

District.	Notifications.	Removed.	Percentage.
Newport	185	141	—
St. Helens	62	27	—
Rural District	295	256	—
Total Fairlee Area...	542	424	78.2
Sandown	40	29	—
Shanklin	20	6	—
Total Joint Area	60	35	58.3
Ryde Hospital	147	106	72.1

It will be seen from the above figures that Fairlee had a larger percentage of removals than Ryde, and still larger than the Sandown & Shanklin Joint, and 58.2 cent. per of removals appears to be a very small number for such important health resorts as Sandown and Shanklin.

It is difficult to estimate the benefit accruing from an isolation hospital by the amount of expenditure, as in Fairlee a portion of the cost is attributable to the removal by motor ambulance of all bedding from infected houses, which is disinfected in the Washington Lyons Steam disinfecter, a matter of considerable importance in health resorts. There is always skilled nursing available, and the Hospital has never been closed, as is frequently the case in small hospitals, owing to the heavy cost of maintaining a staff when the hospital is empty.

THE GROUNDS.

Vegetables, fruit, and fowls are kept in the grounds, and these ensure fresh eggs, as well as vegetables, fruit, and poultry for the patients.

The new poultry house can accommodate over 40 fowls, and has four runs opening separately, so that each run can have a long resting time to enable it to recover after the fowls have been on it for a period.

CONVEYANCE OF PATIENTS.

The motor ambulance which you purchased in April, 1917, has during the year covered 1720 miles at a cost of £33 12s. 9d., or at the rate of 4.7 per mile, which does not include depreciation, insurance, or wages of driver.

GENERAL.

The cost of food per day per patient has during the year amounted to 1.7½, and the total cost per day per patient, which includes repayment of principal and interest on the loan, has been 14/2¼.

The cost for the last ten years has been :—

		£	s.	d.
1912-13	...	12	1	
1913-14	...	7	10	¾
1914-15	...	10	0	
1915-16	...	10	6	½
1916-17	...	6	5	¼
1917-18	...	7	0	¼
1918-19	...	1	3	2 ¼
1919-20	...	11	2	½
1920-21	...	18	11	¾
1921-22	...	14	10	¼
Average		12	2	¾

THE STAFF.

The staff nominally consists of :—

1 matron	1 sister
1 trained nurse	4 probationers ;
and the domestic staff of—	
1 cook	1 laundry maid
2 ward maids	1 between maid

At no time during the year has this staff been obtainable, great difficulty having been experienced in obtaining probationers and maids. During the year only three probationers have been resident, and during the six weeks in which one was absent owing to scarlet fever, a temporary nurse had to be employed.

The difficulty of obtaining maids has been even greater, as it appears impossible to obtain satisfactory work for the sum now offered—namely £22 per annum.

As regards the laundry maid, whom you instructed the Matron to obtain at £30 per annum, this was found to be impossible, and a charwoman has had to be employed during the whole year.

The above staff, with the exception of the cook, are resident in the administration block, and are provided with board as well as residence. The porter, who attends to the disinfecter and drives the ambulance, and his wife, who acts as cook, are provided with a house, coal, gas, and electricity, while the gardener lives out and receives a weekly salary.

I have much pleasure in recording that the work of the Matron and her permanent staff has been as usual of an exceptionally fine character, and owing to the lack of junior and domestic staff has often had to be carried out under very difficult and arduous conditions.

Thanking you for the loyal support which you have always accorded to me,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. ALBERT GIBSON.

TABLE II.

Showing the number of cases admitted and discharged during the various months of the year, and the average number in the hospital on any one night.

Month.			Number admitted.	Number discharged.	Maximum at night.	Minimum at night.	Average at night.
1921.							
April	...	...	6	4	6	1	2.1
May	...	...	9	1	14	5	7.8
June	...	...	4	13	16	5	12.3
July	...	...	6	5	6	2	3.4
August	...	...	8	7	9	5	7.1
September	...	...	7	8	11	5	8.2
October	...	...	14	7	16	6	11.9
November	...	...	31	10	34	12	19.3
December	...	...	27	30	40	28	35.4
1922.							
January	...	...	21	25	33	21	25.3
February	...	...	7	20	28	13	20.6
March	...	...	21	13	22	15	16.8
Totals and av. for year			161	143	40	1	14.1

TABLE III.

Showing the distribution of the sexes on admission.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Typhoid Fever.		Other Diseases.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1921.										
April ...	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	4
May ...	—	1	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	9
June ...	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	3
July ...	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	5
August	—	2	2	3	1	—	—	—	3	5
Sept. ...	3	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	4
October	1	10	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	12
Nov. ...	15	13	—	2	1	—	—	—	16	15
Dec. ...	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	15
1922.										
January	6	8	—	—	—	—	4	3	10	11
Feb. ...	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
March ...	11	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	8
Totals	51	70	5	22	2	1	4	6	64	97

TABLE IV.
Showing the ages of patients on admission.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Other Diseases.	Total
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2 ...	—	—	1	1
2 and under 5 ...	10	1	4	15
5 and under 15 ...	96	19	2	117
15 and under 25 ...	8	5	3	16
25 and under 35 ...	5	1	1	7
35 and under 45 ...	2	—	—	2
45 and under 55 ...	—	1	2	3
55 and under 65 ...	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—
	121	27	13	161

TABLE V.

Showing a comparison of the number of patients admitted during each month of the year under review, with the average for the previous ten years :—

				10 years— 1911-1921		1921-1922
April	...	...	...	7	...	6
May	...	...	...	11	...	9
June	...	...	...	8	...	4
July	...	...	...	11	...	6
August	...	...	...	9	...	8
September	...	...	...	12	...	7
October	...	...	...	19	...	14
November	...	...	...	15	...	31
December	...	...	...	15	...	27
January (1922)	...	...	...	14	...	21
February	...	...	...	12	...	7
March	...	...	...	11	...	21
Total				144	...	161

TABLE VI.

Showing the total admissions from the different diseases and the various authorities since the Hospital was opened in May, 1911, including small-pox treated at Ashey for the County Council :—

		10 years—					
		1911-1921.			1921-1922.		Total.
Scarlet Fever	547	...	121	...	668
Diphtheria	680	...	27	...	707
Typhoid Fever	14	...	3	...	17
Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	...	0	...	4
Small-pox	12	...	0	...	12
Other Diseases	165	...	10	...	175
Total		...	1422	...	161	...	1583
Newport	391	...	38	...	429
St. Helens	50	...	10	...	60
Rural District	627	...	70	...	697
East Cowes (from Oct., 1918)	100	...	16	...	116
Hospital Staff	9	...	1	...	10
Total from—	
Constituent Authorities	1177	...	135	...	1312
East Cowes (before Oct., 1918)	94	...	—	...	94
Cowes	107	...	15	...	122
Ventnor	1	...	0	...	1
Ryde	0	...	1	...	1
Sandown	2	...	4	...	6
Shanklin	0	...	2	...	2
Undercliff Board	1	...	1	...	2
Military and Naval	35	...	0	...	35
County Hospital	1	...	2	...	3
Private	4	...	1	...	5
Totals		...	1422	...	161	...	1583

